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MUELLER INVESTIGATION

FLYNN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING TO THE FBI

NEXT STEPS: Special counsel's moves may signal mounting legal peril for White House

BY KAREN DEYOUNG, ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN & TOM HAMBURGER

WASHINGTON

After six months of work, special counsel Robert Mueller has indicted two top advisers to President Donald Trump and accepted guilty pleas from two others in exchange for their cooperation with his probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election — a sign of potentially mounting legal peril for the White House.

With the guilty plea Friday by former national security adviser Michael Flynn — one of Trump's closest and most valued aides — the investigation has swept up an array of figures with intimate knowledge of the campaign, the transition and the White House.

It appears to have swiftly expanded beyond Russia's interference in the campaign to encompass a range of activities, including contacts with Russian officials during the transition and alleged money laundering that took place long before Trump ran for office.

And Flynn's agreement to fully cooperate with investiga-

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JONATHAN ERNST REUTERS

Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn departs U.S. District Court in Washington Friday after entering a guilty plea to lying to the FBI.

PLEA DEAL: Former Trump aide cooperating with special counsel's Russia investigation

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and said he is cooperating in the ongoing probe of possible coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin to influence the 2016 election.

When Flynn was forced out of the White House in February, officials said he had misled the administration, including Vice President Mike Pence, about his contacts with Kislyak. But court records and people familiar with the contacts indicated he was acting in consultation with senior Trump transition officials, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, in his dealings with the diplomat.

Flynn's plea revealed that he was in touch with senior Trump transition officials before and after his communications with the ambassador.

The pre-inauguration communications with

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HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T

In the holiday spirit

People filled the Plaza de Panama in Balboa Park Friday night as December Nights got under way. The annual celebration, in its 40th year, was expected to draw more than 350,000 people. The festivities continue today from noon to 11 p.m.

SENATE OKs SWEEPING, $1.5 TRILLION TAX PLAN

Series of last-minute rewrites prompt outcry by Democrats

BY JIM TANKERSLEY, THOMAS KAPLAN & ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON

The Senate passed the most sweeping tax rewrite in decades overnight, with Republicans lining up to approve an overhaul that will touch almost every corner of the U.S. economy, affecting families, small business owners and multinational corporations, with the biggest benefits flowing to the highest-earning Americans.

Senators voted 51-49, as Republicans approved the nearly 500-page bill in the early-morning hours after lawmakers received a rewritten version, which contained significant changes from the original bill that passed two Senate panels last month along party lines. The last-minute revisions prompted an outcry from Democrats, who said it was impossible — and irresponsible — for lawmakers to read and digest a significant piece of legislation in such a short time.

Speaking on the Senate floor ahead of the vote, the minority leader, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, called the Republican approach "a process and a product that no one can be proud of and everyone should be ashamed of."

He went on to warn that changes made to the bill "under the cover of darkness" would "stuff even more money into the

SEE TAXES • A10

STUDY: SOCCERCITY TRAFFIC DATA LOW

Proposal projects 71,500 daily trips; SANDAG sees 97K

BY JEANETTE STEELE

New traffic projections are in for the SoccerCity proposal on the former Chargers stadium site, and they are again higher than proponents said.

A finalized SANDAG study released Friday afternoon says 97,000 average daily trips would be generated by the mixed-use development plan with a new sports stadium, housing, offices, retail, hotels and parkland.

SoccerCity's projection was 71,500 trips daily.

What about San Diego State University's SDSU Mission Valley plan unveiled this week? The projects are similar, but SoccerCity would build about twice as much retail and office space.

SDSU Mission Valley would create 55,140 daily trips, according to numbers supplied by the university on Friday afternoon. A university spokeswoman said SDSU commissioned its own analysis based on its development plan, but SANDAG has not vetted those numbers independently.

SoccerCity officials continue to contest the SANDAG findings and called for an "independent, outside inquiry," even though they helped pay for the study. Friday's traffic report is the final version of an analysis initially released in

SEE TRAFFIC • A13

THOM VOLLENWEIDER

Monte Vista head coach Ron Hamamoto congratulates running back Jahmon McClendon after the game.

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPS

Monte Vista's Jahmon McClendon scored a record eight touchdowns in the Monarchs' 71-48 win over San Diego High for the CIF San Diego Section Division IV championship Friday. See story and coverage of other divisions, D4.

TODAY'S DEAL

Fix that broken windshield and pay $15 for $100 toward windshield replacement or insurance deductible, plus get a free $25 gift card. Buy now at **SanDiegoUnionTribune.com/UTDeals.**

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